



New Student Orientation Largest to Date

The University of Alaska Southeast held its most successful New Student Orientation ever August 26-28. "One of the overarching goals of the program was to ensure that all of the participants established at least a handful of relationships with people who will contribute to their success in college and at the same time had some fun," said UAS Admissions Director Joe Nelson.

Students had two action packed days that included kayaking, whale watching and a barbeque beach dinner that featured Tlingit drumming. In her written comments, one student wrote, "Thank you sooooo much. I had an awesome time! The first day was long, but important, and the second day was fabulous! I loved the boat ride and the stories; the BBQ was fun. Thank you again."



"A record 140 students attended Day One and 117 attended Day Two for an 83.5% return rate. This was the largest orientation at UAS, as well as the largest return rate for Day Two," said EMAS coordinator and orientation organizer Julie Staveland. "Orientation would not have come together so well, had it not been for a dedicated team of student services staff who have been planning the event for many months," added Nelson.

The planning committee is currently in the process of evaluating this year's program with an eye toward making the Fall 09 Orientation even bigger and better. "We are confident that our orientation efforts, including a parent Orientation, are getting students off on the right foot as they begin their life adventures at UAS," said Nelson.

Dauenhauers Edit Major Book on Historic Tlingit, Russian Battles: Book based on never-before published Tlingit recordings



From the Sealaska Heritage Institute

UAS Tlingit language instructors Richard and Nora Marks Dauenhauer were instrumental in the recent publication of a major book on historic battles between the Russians and Tlingits in the early 19th century. It was released in May by the Sealaska Heritage Institute.

Anóoshi Lingít Aaní Ká: Russians in Tlingit America, The Battles of Sitka 1802 and 1804, edited by the Dauenhauers and Lydia Black, is the 4th volume in the

award-winning series, *Classics of*

Tlingit Oral Literature. The book explores an era from the 1790s through 1818 when Russians expanded into Southeast Alaska to take control of the Northwest Coast fur trade. The Tlingit people resisted the incursion into their ancestral homeland and events culminated in two historic battles between the Russians and Tlingits in 1802 and 1804.

At the heart of the book are never-before published recordings by the National Park Service of Tlingit elders telling oral histories of the battles. The recordings were made in the 1950s by Kiks.ádi elder Sally Hopkins and Kaagwaantaan elder Alex Andrews, who was a child of the Kiks.ádi. The book was conceived 20 years ago when Kiks.ádi elders asked the Dauenhauers to transcribe, translate, and publish the tapes, and the Sealaska Heritage Board approved the project. The Dauenhauers were able to compare the recordings to eye-witness accounts by Russians translated into English by Lydia Black, a scholar who worked on the book until her death in 2007.

"We're not dealing with second-hand information. We're dealing almost exclusively with first hand accounts, so we have the Tlingit first-hand accounts and then we have Russian first-hand accounts, many of which have never been published even in Russia," said Dauenhauer, calling it one of the most complex books he and his wife, Nora, have undertaken. "We were amazed with the amount of agreement on most of the major events."

The book also is important because it recounts events from the Tlingit point of view, which is missing from Alaska history books, said Nora Dauenhauer.

"Our children don't have anything in history in schools or anywhere, and one of the things we hope we'll use this book for is in schools where people teach history without Tlingits," she said. "I'm just so happy that we have this story to fall back on and for students to realize that they have a history also."



Alaska College Track 2 is available on DVD.

Kudos for Documentary on Alaska Native College Students

A documentary funded by grants from First National Bank Alaska's "Getting Ready for College" initiative and BP-Conoco Phillips is being distributed throughout the UA system. It is being used by student advisors and counselors to help prepare Alaska Natives for college. Portions of *Alaska College Track 2* have been shown at several national College Board conferences on first time college students.

Alaska College Track 2 tells the stories of college students who represent the population least likely to succeed in the state: Alaska Natives. Varied odds are against them, but the young people featured are set on a higher education. The program began in 2004 as a local companion to a national PBS series. Short feature packages showed first generation students from small Southeast Alaskan villages initiating the daunting transition from rural community to urban university life at UAS, UAA and UAF. *Alaska College Track 2* reveals their achievements and struggles in 2007.

Alaska College Track 2 shares how one student used the heartbreaking loss of her brother to reassess her goals and get back on the college track. It shows cultural identity and traditions helping rural students stay in school. The documentary raises issues such as the High School Qualifying Exam, cultural differences, and the expectations gap between high schools and post-secondary educators.

Alaska College Track 2 is the recipient of 2008 state, regional and national awards. It was awarded 2nd Place by the Alaska Press Club and 3rd Place by the Society of Professional Journalists Northwest in the Documentary category. The program is the recipient of a Communicator Award of Distinction from the International Academy of the Visual Arts.

Katie Bausler is the writer, host and producer of *Alaska College Track 2*. Former UAS Marketing Director Kevin Myers is Associate Producer.

Robotic Mini-Snowmobiles Tested on Icefield

A NASA grant through UAS SEAMONSTER (Southeast Alaska Monitoring Network for Science Telecommunications Education and Research) brought a prototype robot for its first test in Alaska to the Juneau Icefield June 7-13. The "SnoMote" is a small two-foot long robotic snowmobile. It is outfitted with sensors, gauges and cameras that could ultimately help monitor climate change.

The test was hosted by UAS Environmental Science professor Matt Heavner. "We're building a wireless web of sensors that will enable all of the SnoMotes to act autonomously, each programmed with an assigned coverage area and set of measurements to seek," said Heavner.

Georgia Tech associate professor Ayanna Howard, who developed the prototype, was part of a research team that came to Juneau. "In order to say with certainty how climate change affects the world's ice, scientists need accurate data points to validate their climate models," said Howard. "Our goal was to create rovers that could gather more accurate data to help scientists create better climate models. It's definitely science-driven robotics."

Howard is working with Heavner to broadcast SnoMote data on the Web for easy access by scientists.

"With a comprehensive system that boasts a communications infrastructure, mobile sensors with moving data streams, plus existing weather stations and Global Positioning System measurements of glacier motion, the entire network will be able to alert scientists, in real time, about what may be happening, let's say, when an Arctic lake is draining," said Heavner.

Prof. Heavner is an associate professor of physics and the principal investigator on the \$881,755 NASA SEAMONSTER grant.

SEAMONSTER weather stations and water quality monitoring indicate how Lemon Creek and other watersheds in Southeast Alaska are responding to melting of the Juneau Ice Sheet due to climate change.

The SnoMotes research is funded by a grant from NASA's Advanced Information Systems Technology (AIST) Program.



Dr. Ayanna Howard, Georgia Tech University, SnoMote Developer

PITAAS Program

The UAS PITAAS (Preparing Indigenous Teachers for Alaska Schools) program is going into its 10th year as the recipient of a \$1.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. PITAAS provides scholarship funds for Alaska Native students who plan to teach in Alaska public schools after graduation.

"The goal is to encourage graduates to go back to their communities and teach," said Dean of Professional Studies Larry Harris.

"We've learned a lot more about how to keep these students in school," said PITAAS director Jacque Tagaban. "UAS is a model to listen to Alaska Native staff and faculty about what it takes to get students to stay here," she said. About 20% of UAS students are Alaska Native. But only 5% of teachers in Alaska schools are Alaska Native.

The goal is to graduate at least ten PITAAS students per year. In the spring of 2008, a record 12 graduates were from the PITAAS program. The program has graduated 32 students since it began in 1999. At least 13 are certified teachers employed around the state.

In 2009, the new grant funds will help bring PITAAS teachers to UAS Ketchikan and Sitka campuses for the first time. The grant will also enable the expansion of Future Teachers clubs to Southeast middle schools. A PITAAS Future Teachers club at Juneau Douglas High School now serves as a model to inspire future teachers.

Forty PITAAS students are enrolled at UAS this Fall. They include students seeking undergraduate early childhood and elementary degrees as well as graduate students in the M.A.T. and M.Ed. programs.

"There is always a need for more representation of our people in the educational system that changed our culture," said PITAAS alum and teacher Hans Chester. "Going through the teaching programs was a great experience. I learned to be proactive with language development and infuse Tlingit culture in western education."

Chester is in his fourth year teaching K-1 at Glacier Valley Elementary School in Juneau.